

**MARVEL**

**THE UNCANNY**

# X-MEN



TM  
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**\$1.00 US**  
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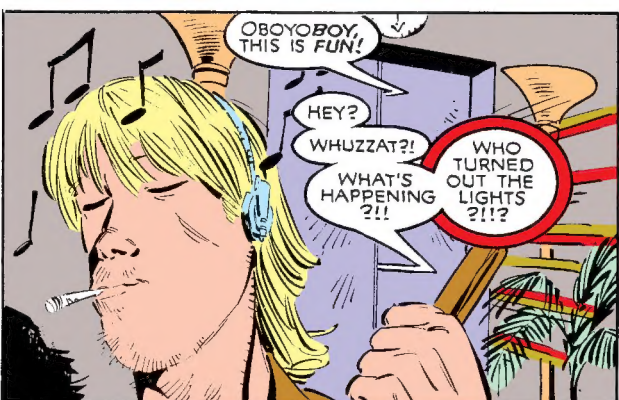
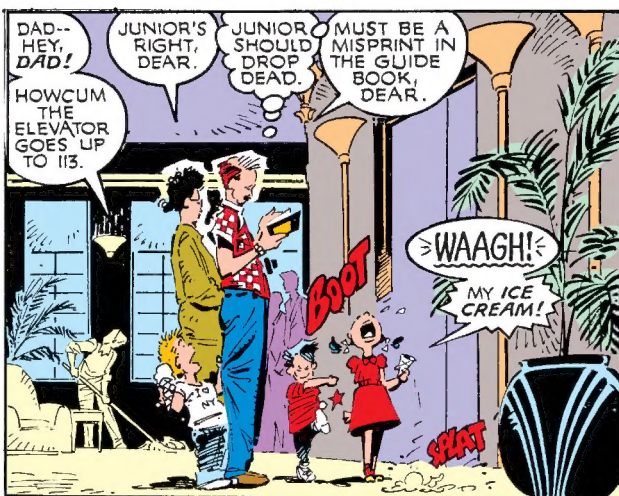
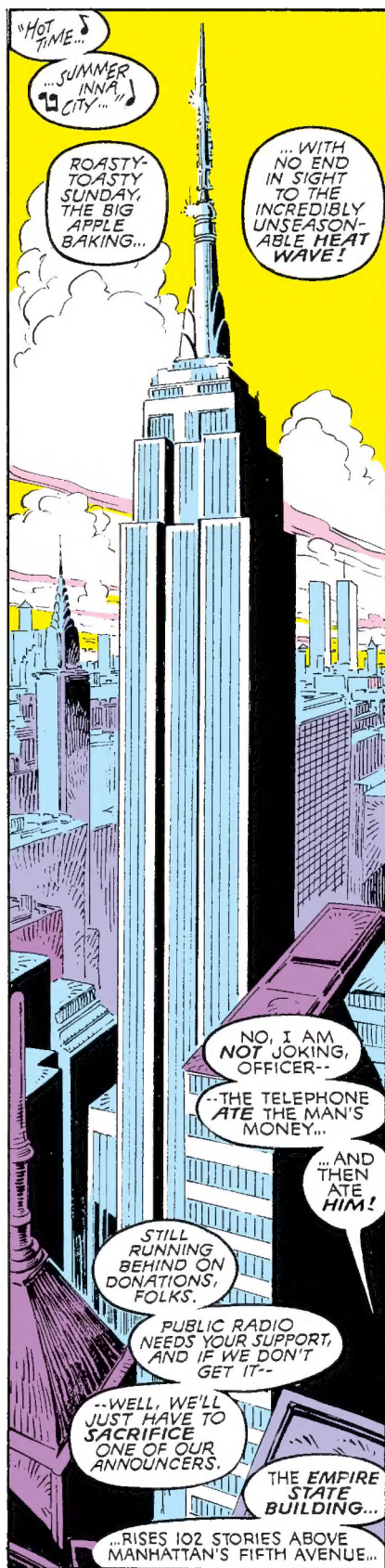
**SINISTER  
SCHEMES--**

**IGNITE  
INFERNO™**

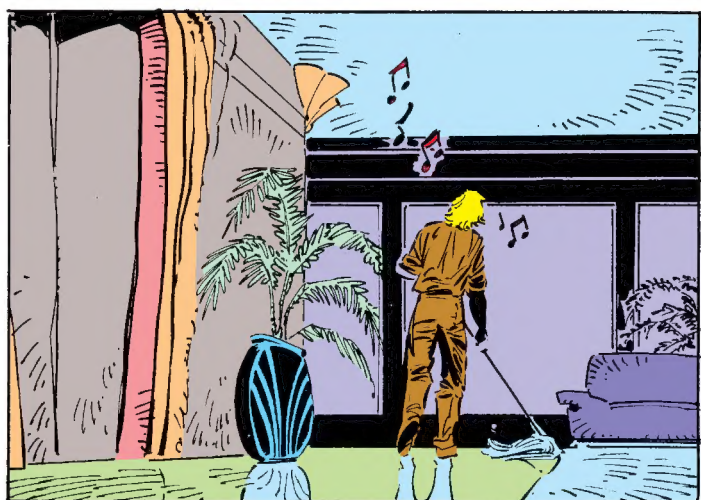
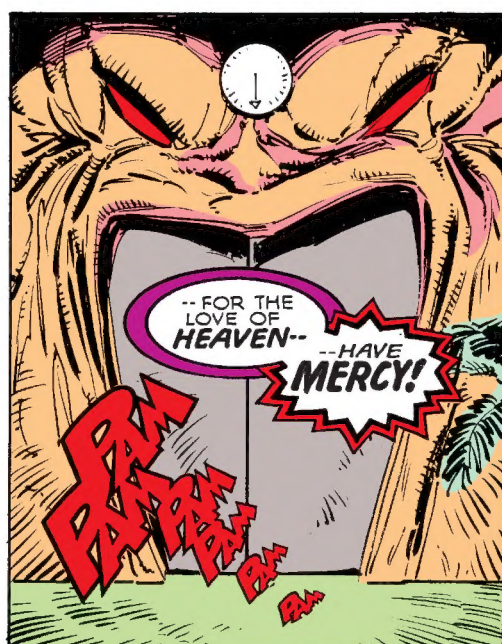


ILLUSTRATION BY GREEN











ANOTHER  
PLACE.

ANOTHER  
DAY.

ANOTHER  
MAN.

**MR. SINISTER,**  
BY NAME--

--WHO, HERE IN HIS COMMAND POST, HAS  
THE ENTIRE WORLD AT HIS FINGERTIPS.  
IT'S SAID INFORMATION IS POWER. IF SO,  
THEN CONCEIVABLY, HE HAS IT ALL. ACCESS  
TO ANYONE, ANYWHERE, ANYTIME.

FROM THE MOMENT  
I LEARNED OF YOUR  
EXISTENCE,  
**X-MEN...**

...I KNEW OUR  
PATHS WOULD  
CROSS AS  
ADVERSARIES.

THE EARTH  
IS GROWING  
TOO SMALL--  
TOO CROWDED--  
FOR MUTANTS  
AND HUMANS  
TO POSSIBLY  
CO-EXIST.

THE DAY OF  
HOMO SAPIENS  
IS DONE.

IT IS PAST  
TIME THE SPECIES  
WAS REMOVED FROM  
THE EVOLUTIONARY  
STAGE, TO MAKE  
WAY FOR THEIR  
BETTERS.

I ALWAYS ASSUMED  
YOU-- HUMANITY'S  
SELF-APPOINTED  
CHAMPIONS, EVEN  
THOUGH THEY BRANDED  
YOU OUTLAW AND  
OUTCAST--

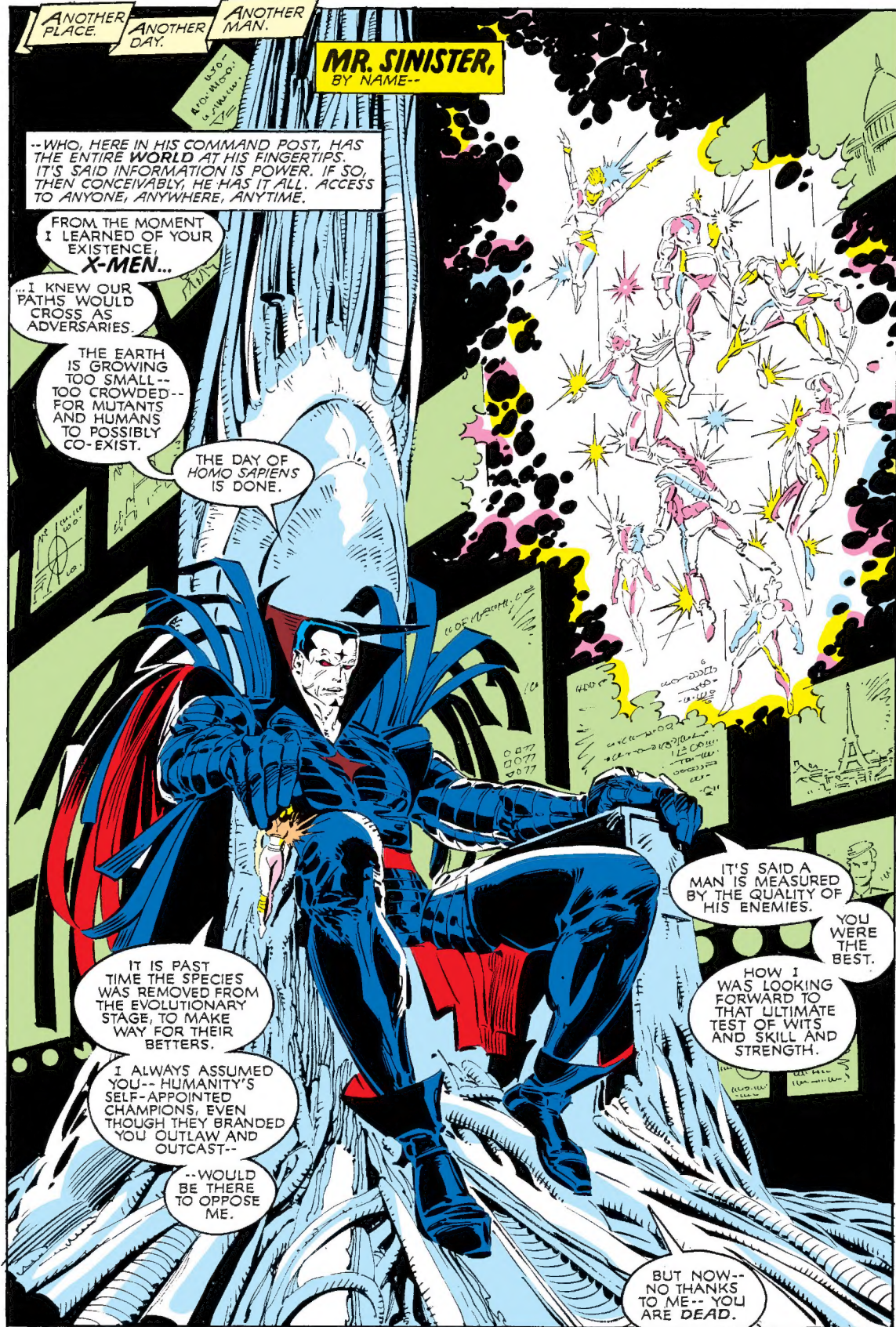
--WOULD  
BE THERE  
TO OPPOSE  
ME.

IT'S SAID A  
MAN IS MEASURED  
BY THE QUALITY OF  
HIS ENEMIES.

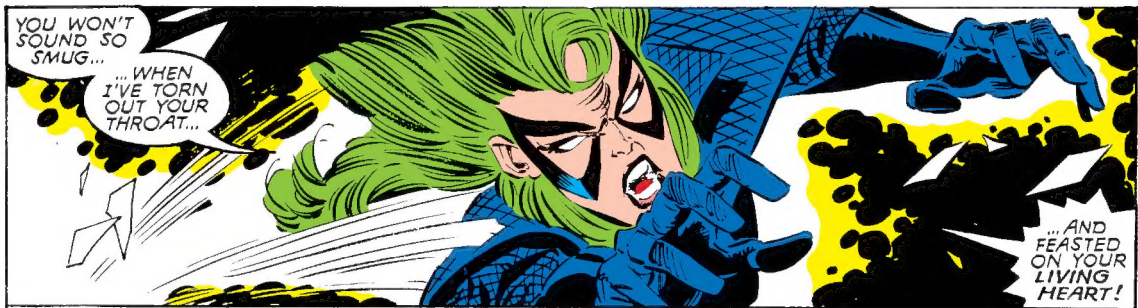
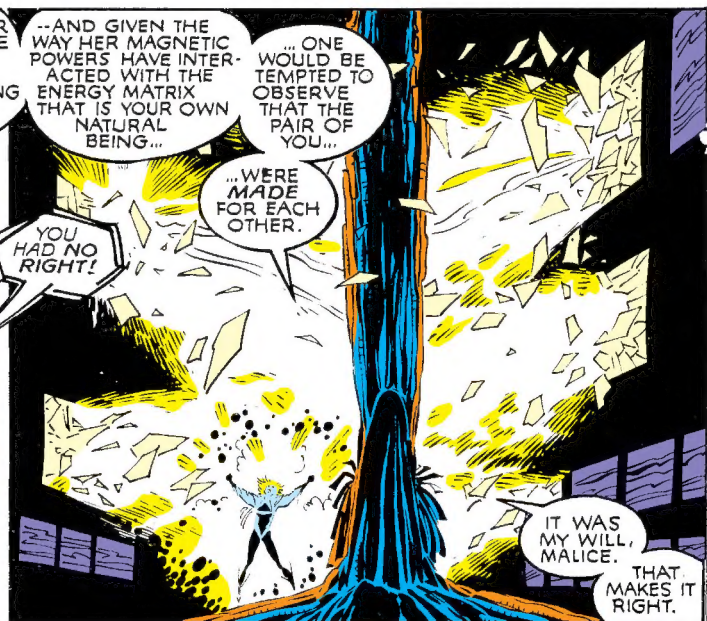
YOU  
WERE  
THE  
BEST.

HOW I  
WAS LOOKING  
FORWARD TO  
THAT ULTIMATE  
TEST OF WITS  
AND SKILL AND  
STRENGTH.

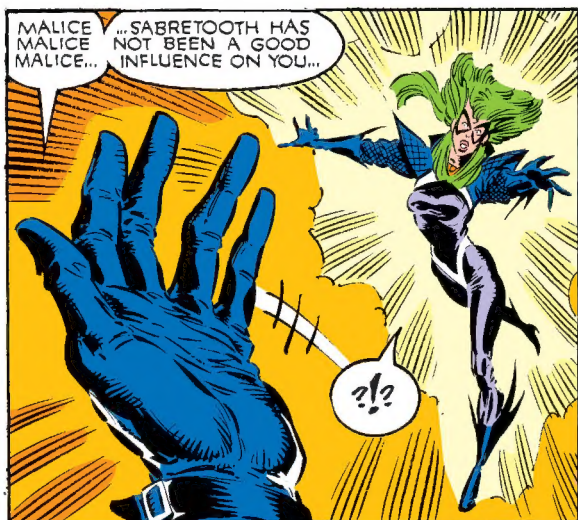
BUT NOW--  
NO THANKS  
TO ME-- YOU  
ARE DEAD.











MALICE  
MALICE  
MALICE...

...SABRETOOTH HAS  
NOT BEEN A GOOD  
INFLUENCE ON YOU...

?!?



...OR A  
GOOD  
EXAMPLE.

**YEA' EARGH!**



I THOUGHT YOU,  
SWEET MALICE,  
ABOVE ALL  
OTHERS...

...WOULD REALIZE  
THE FOLLY OF  
MATCHING YOUR  
STRENGTH  
AGAINST MINE.



I SERVED YOU  
LOYALLY--

--IS THIS THE  
REWARD I'VE  
EARNED--

--TO BE  
TRAPPED?!

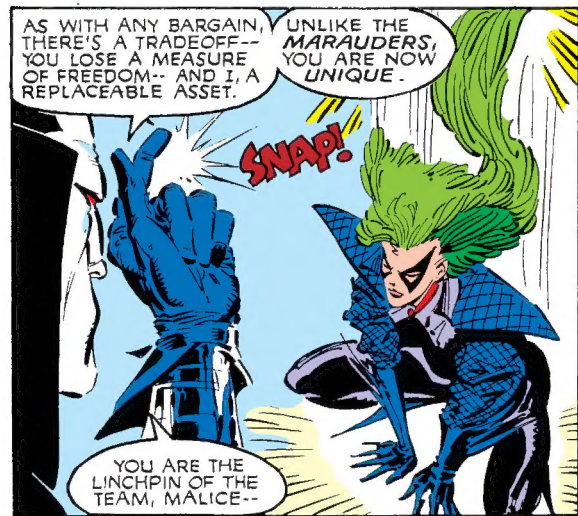


YOU'RE STILL FREE TO  
ROAM, MY PET, AND  
POSSESS WHOM  
YOU PLEASE--

--ONLY NOW  
YOU'VE A BODY  
TO COME  
HOME TO.

I THOUGHT  
THAT WAS WHAT  
YOU WANTED.

AND THIS BOND WILL KEEP  
MS. DANE SUBSERVIENT--  
EVEN WHEN YOU AREN'T  
IN "RESIDENCE".

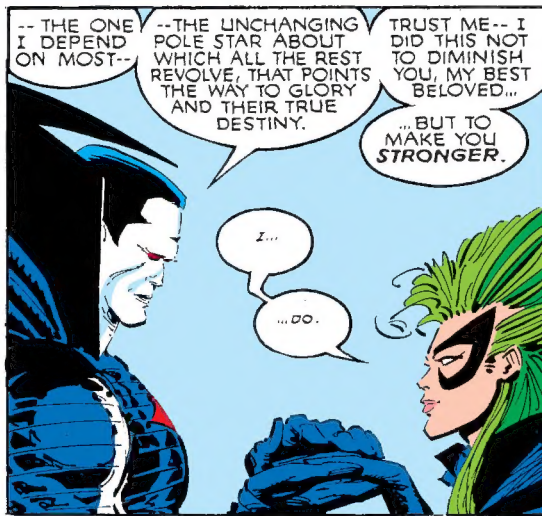


AS WITH ANY BARGAIN,  
THERE'S A TRADEOFF--  
YOU LOSE A MEASURE  
OF FREEDOM-- AND I, A  
REPLACEABLE ASSET.

UNLIKE THE  
MARAUDERS,  
YOU ARE NOW  
UNIQUE.

**SNAP!**

YOU ARE THE  
LINCHPIN OF THE  
TEAM, MALICE--



-- THE ONE  
I DEPEND  
ON MOST--

--THE UNCHANGING  
POLE STAR ABOUT  
WHICH ALL THE REST  
REVOLVE, THAT POINTS  
THE WAY TO GLORY  
AND THEIR TRUE  
DESTINY.

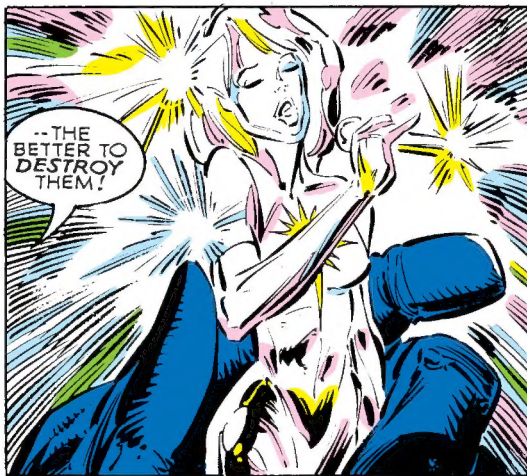
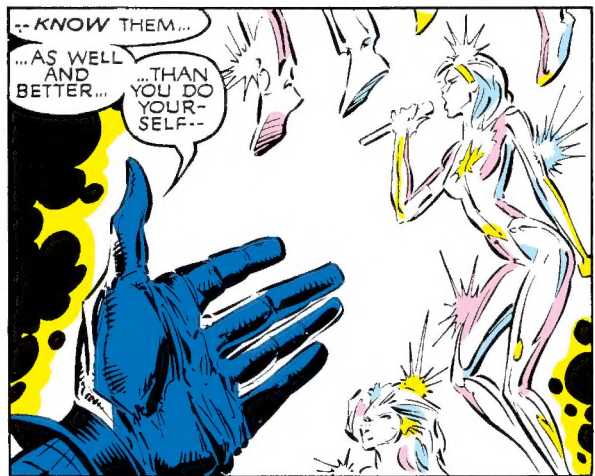
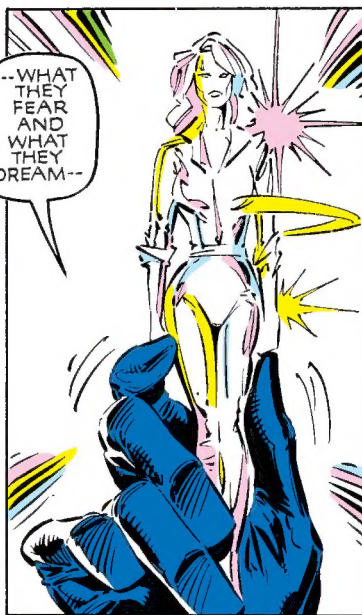
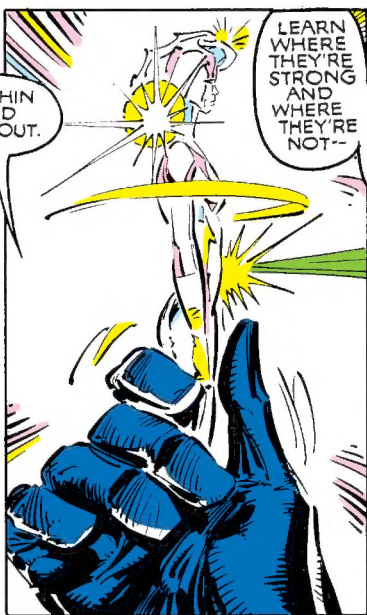
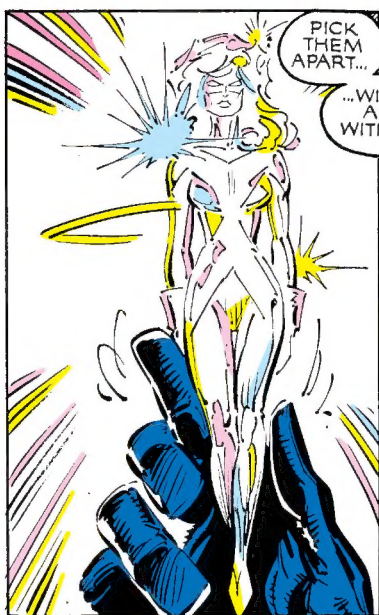
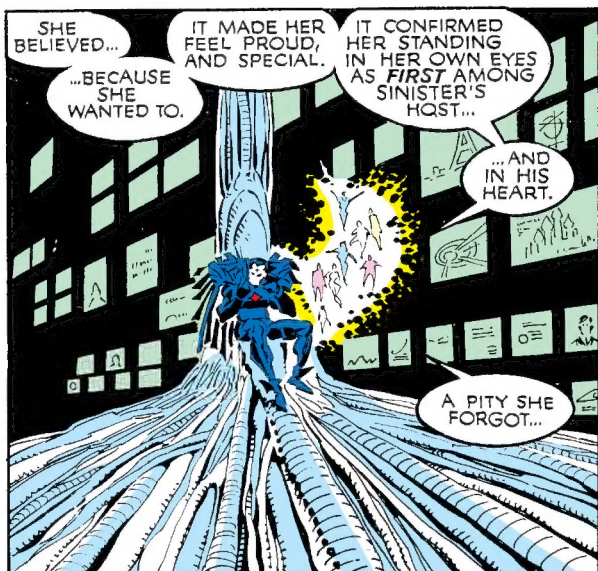
TRUST ME-- I  
DID THIS NOT  
TO DIMINISH  
YOU, MY BEST  
BELOVED...

... BUT TO  
MAKE YOU  
STRONGER.

I...

... DO.







STAN LEE  
PRESENTS

# Vanities

INFERNO'S PROLOGUE,  
STARRING THE  
UNCANNY X-MEN

SATURDAY  
NIGHT.

AUSTRALIA.

MIDDLE OF  
NOWHERE.

SHE DOESN'T  
CARE.

ALISON  
BLAIRE.

**DAZZLER!**

ON THE PROWL.

LOOKING FOR  
ACTION.

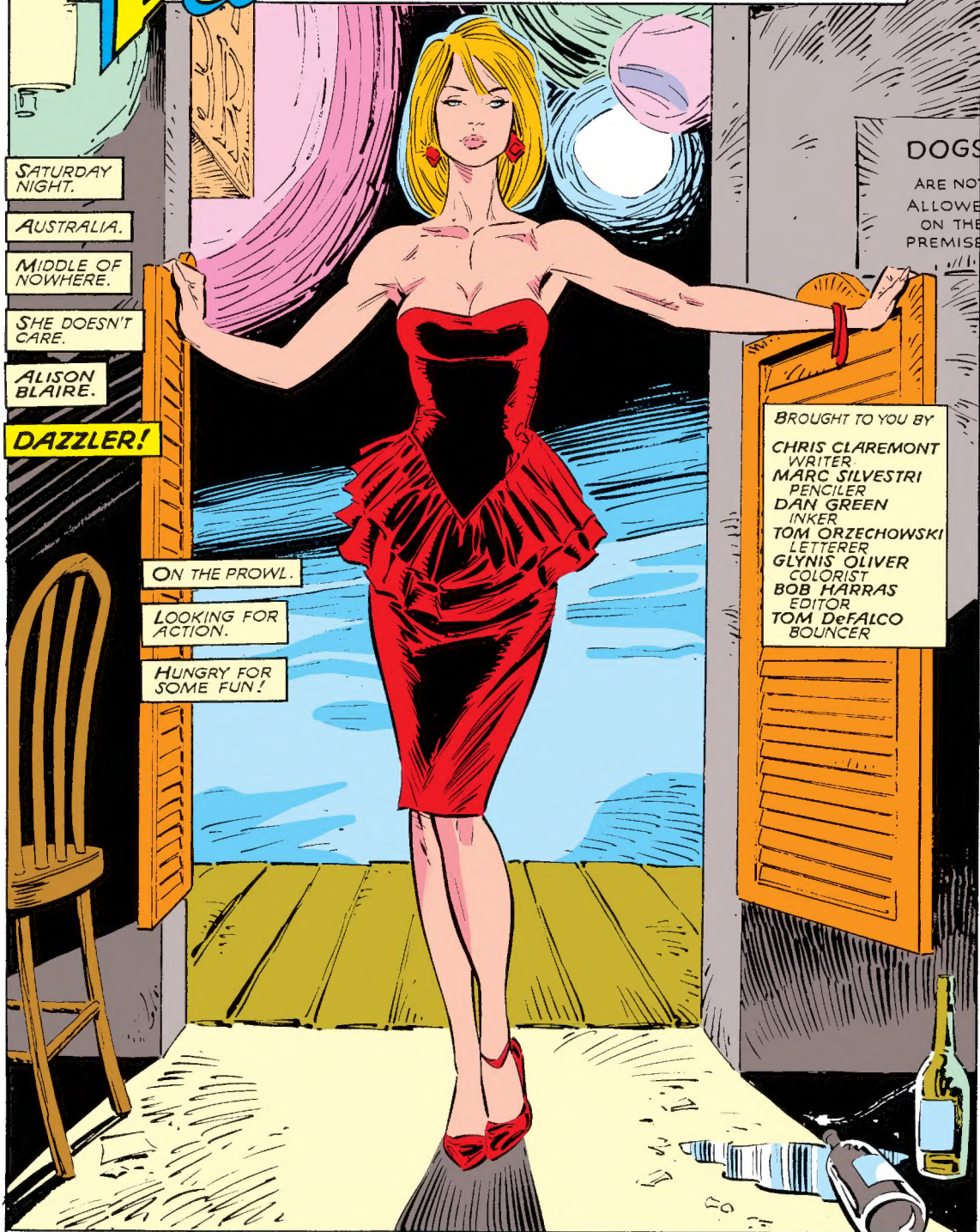
HUNGRY FOR  
SOME FUN!

DOGS

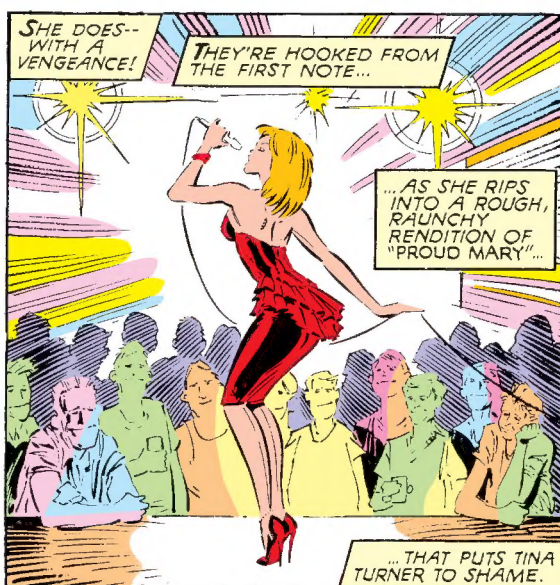
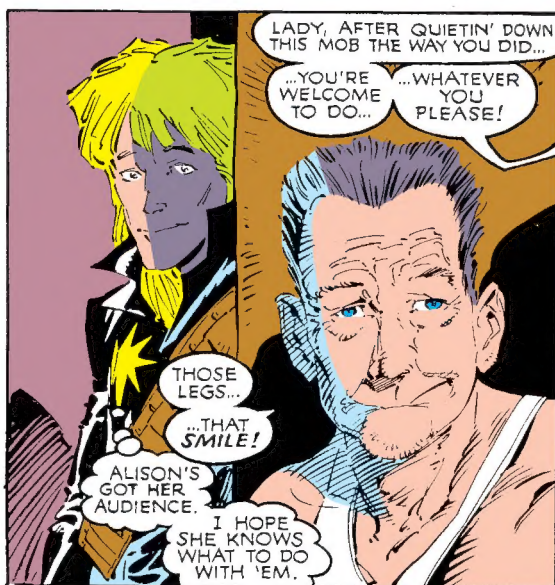
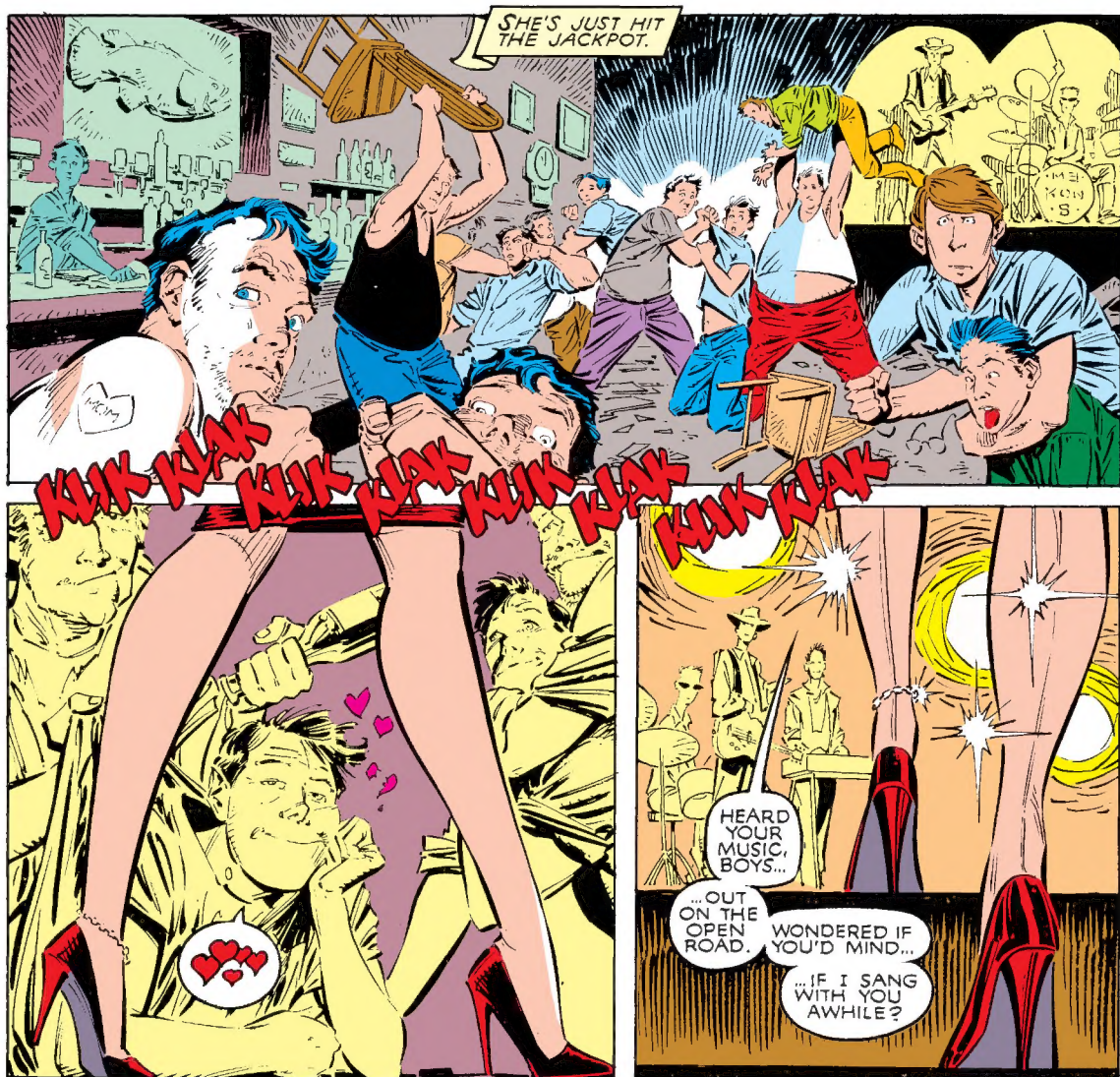
ARE NOT  
ALLOWED  
ON THE  
PREMISE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

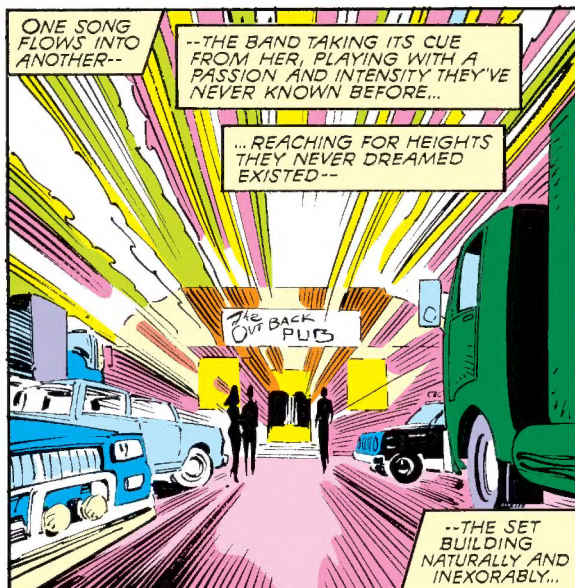
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EDITOR  
TOM DEFALCO  
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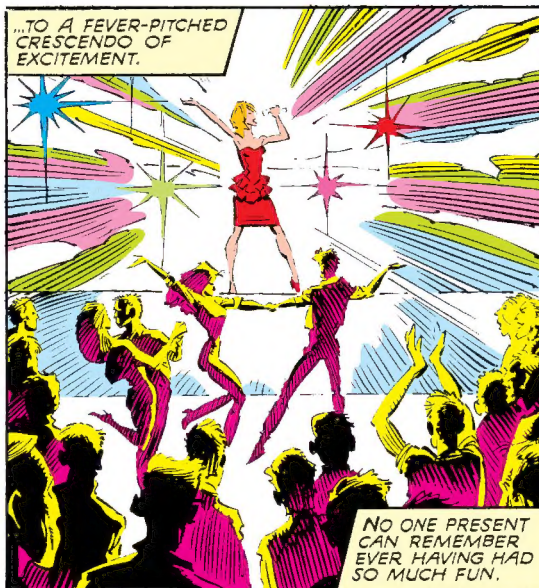


ONE SONG  
FLOWS INTO  
ANOTHER--

--THE BAND TAKING ITS CUE  
FROM HER, PLAYING WITH A  
PASSION AND INTENSITY THEY'VE  
NEVER KNOWN BEFORE...

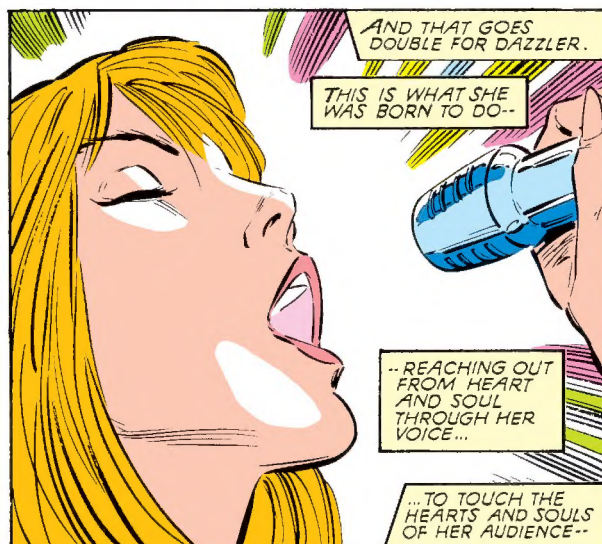
...REACHING FOR HEIGHTS  
THEY NEVER DREAMED  
EXISTED--

--THE SET  
BUILDING  
NATURALLY AND  
INEXORABLY...



...TO A FEVER-PITCHED  
CRESCENDO OF  
EXCITEMENT.

NO ONE PRESENT  
CAN REMEMBER  
EVER HAVING HAD  
SO MUCH FUN.

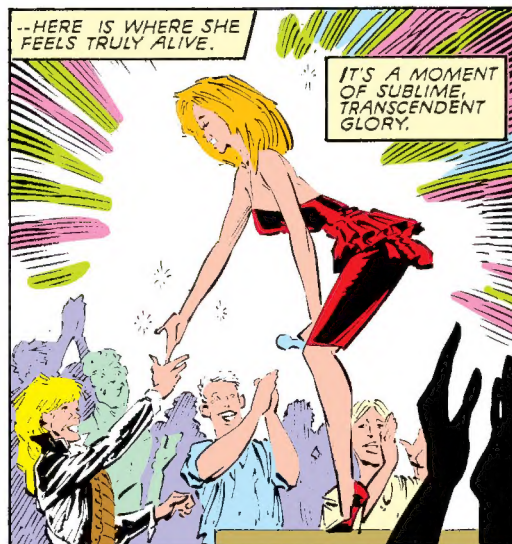


AND THAT GOES  
DOUBLE FOR DAZZLER.

THIS IS WHAT SHE  
WAS BORN TO DO--

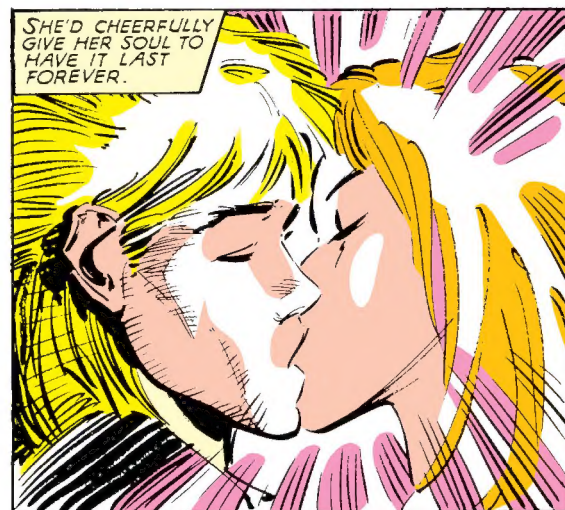
--REACHING OUT  
FROM HEART  
AND SOUL  
THROUGH HER  
VOICE...

...TO TOUCH THE  
HEARTS AND SOULS  
OF HER AUDIENCE--



--HERE IS WHERE SHE  
FEELS TRULY ALIVE.

IT'S A MOMENT  
OF SUBLIME,  
TRANSCENDENT  
GLORY.

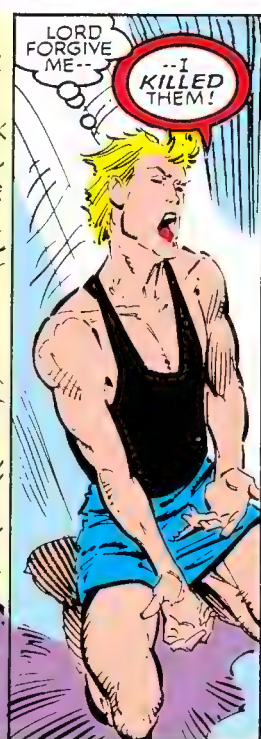
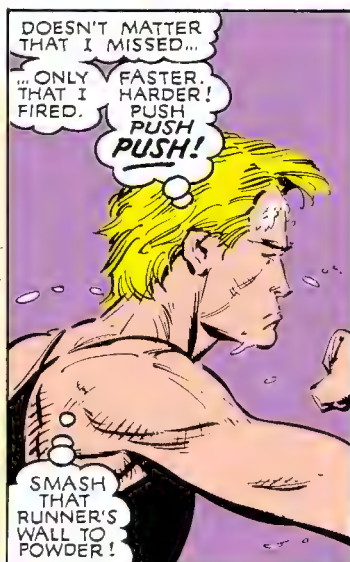
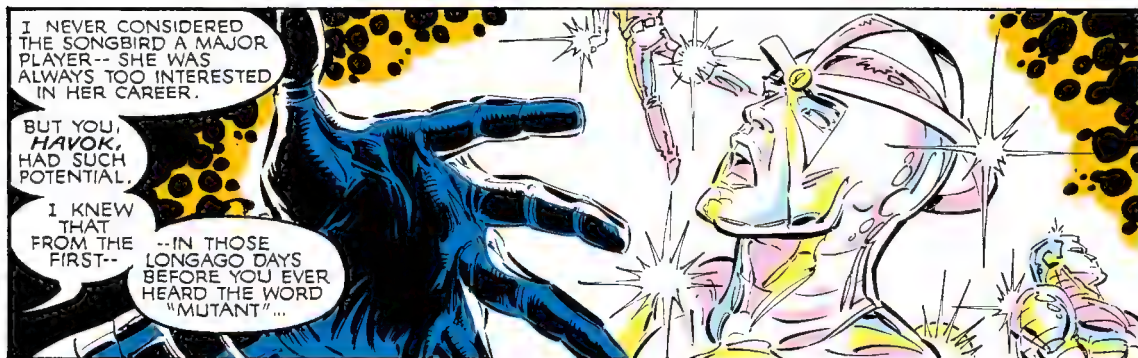


SHE'D CHEERFULLY  
GIVE HER SOUL TO  
HAVE IT LAST  
FOREVER.

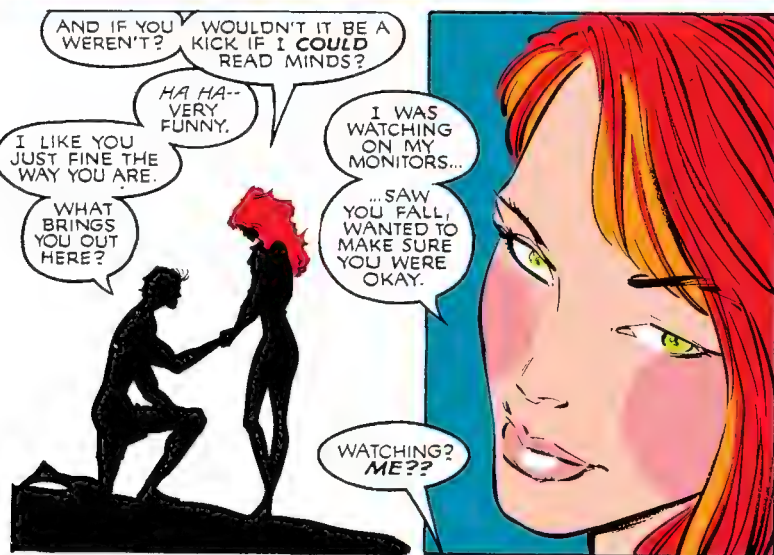
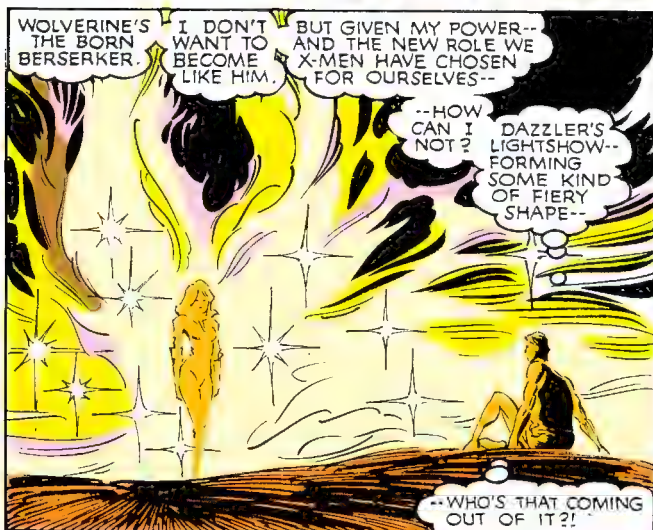
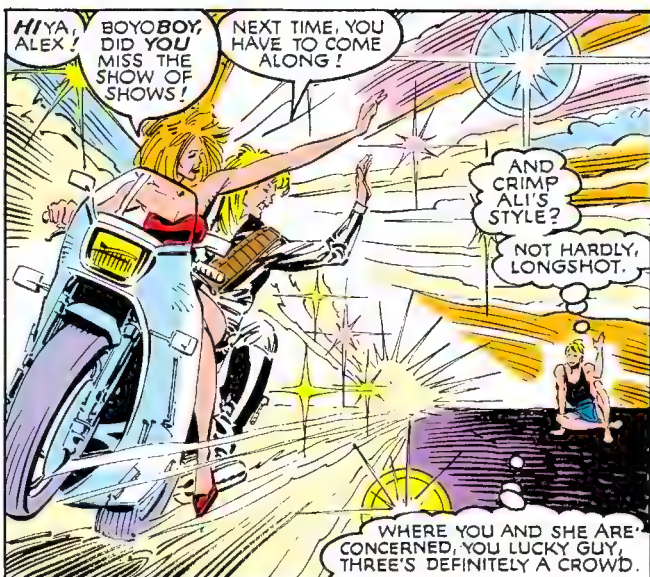
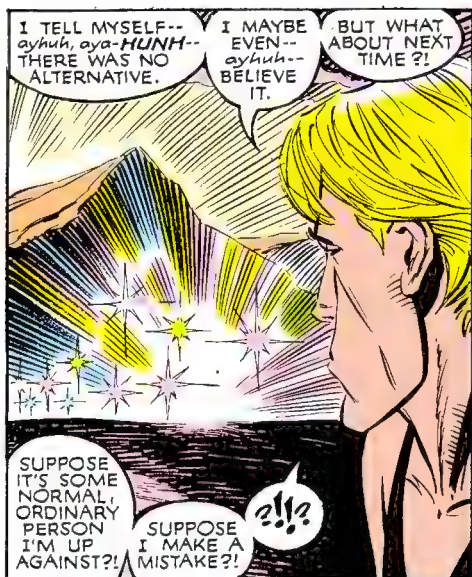


**SNAPT!**

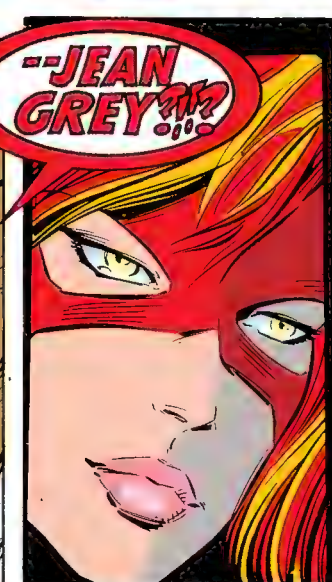




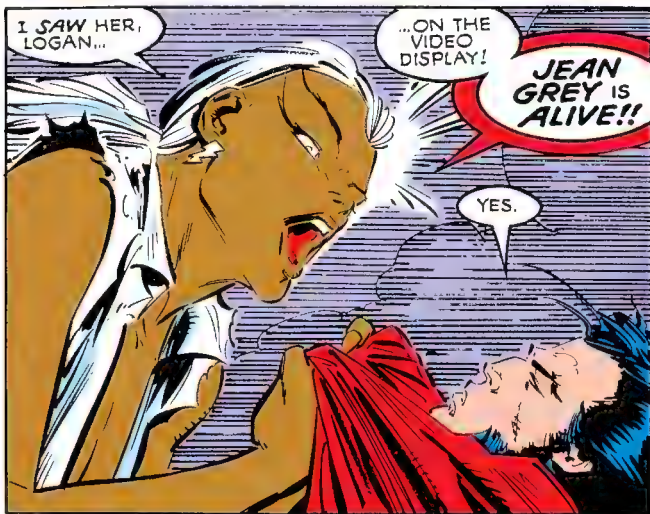




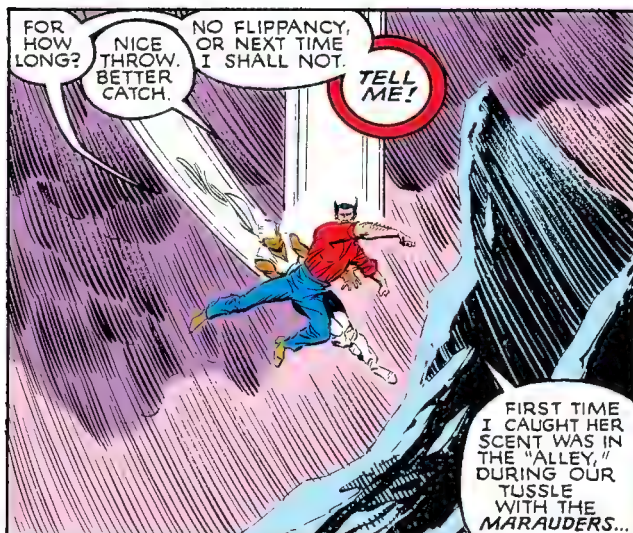












FOR HOW LONG?

NICE THROW. BETTER CATCH.

NO FLIPPANCY, OR NEXT TIME I SHALL NOT.

TELL ME!

FIRST TIME I CAUGHT HER SCENT WAS IN THE "ALLEY," DURING OUR TUSSELE WITH THE MARAUDERS...

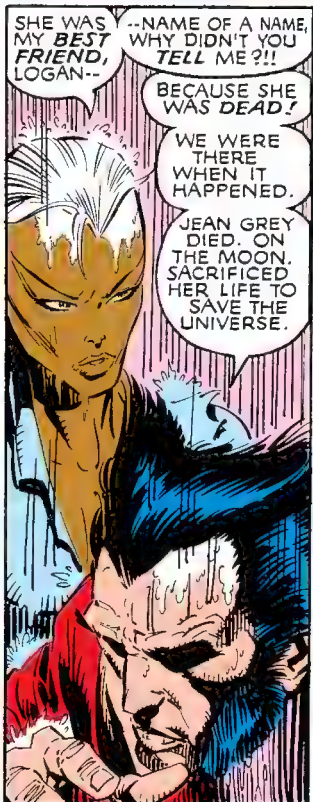


SO LONG AGO?

...THEN, LATER, AT HER SISTER'S PLACE.

IT MADE ME CRAZY, ORORO-- THAT'S WHY I HIT YOU, THEN-- I LOST CONTROL, DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS DOING.

ALL THIS TIME, AND YOU NEVER SAID A WORD?!



SHE WAS MY BEST FRIEND, LOGAN--

--NAME OF A NAME, WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?!!

BECAUSE SHE WAS DEAD!

WE WERE THERE WHEN IT HAPPENED.

JEAN GREY DIED. ON THE MOON. SACRIFICED HER LIFE TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE.



ONLY HERE ARE MY SENSES SUDDENLY TELLING ME THAT NOT ONLY IS SHE STILL ALIVE...

...BUT THIS JEAN GREY HAS NO TRACE OF PHOENIX ABOUT HER.

THE SAME WOMAN-- BUT FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. STILL DON'T, REALLY.



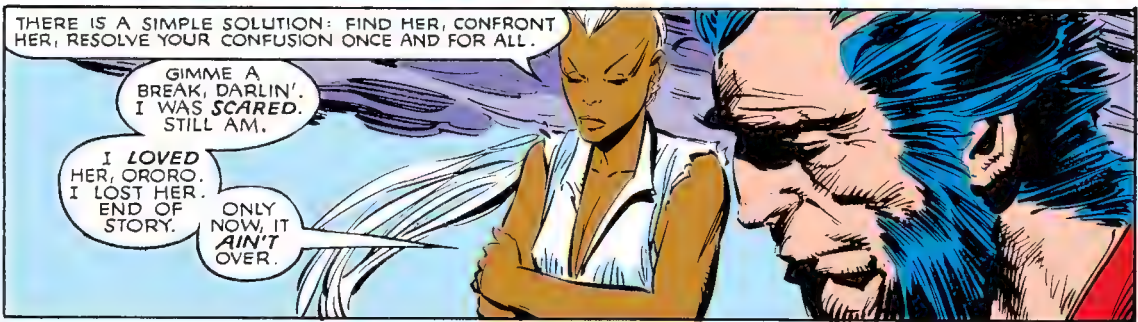
I DIDN'T TELL YOU-- I COULDN'T--

-- BECAUSE I WASN'T SURE!

MAYBE MY MIND WAS PLAYING TRICKS...

...MAYBE MY SENSES WERE MAKING A MISTAKE...

...MAYBE I LABELED THE SCENT "JEAN" BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT I WANTED IT TO BE.



THERE IS A SIMPLE SOLUTION: FIND HER, CONFRONT HER, RESOLVE YOUR CONFUSION ONCE AND FOR ALL.

GIMME A BREAK, DARLIN'. I WAS SCARED. STILL AM.

I LOVED HER, ORORO. I LOST HER. END OF STORY.

ONLY NOW, IT AIN'T OVER.



YOU WERE THE X-MAN I NEVER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO KNOW, **PSYLOCKE**.

THE **WILD CARD** IN THE DECK...

...OUTWARDLY THE PERFECT, GENTLE, UPPER-CLASS LADY--

--AND YET, YOU FACED **SABRETOOTH** ON YOUR OWN AND SURVIVED, NO MEAN FEAT.

PITY. I SUSPECT YOU'D HAVE PROVEN A MOST... INTERESTING CHALLENGE.

ON YOUR TOES, LADY LANCELOT!

THIS TIME, AH'M GONNA RING YOUR CHIMES FOR SURE!

AND HOW, PRAY TELL, **ROGUE**...

...WILL YOU RING CHIMES...

...YOU CAN'T EVEN TOUCH?

SPIT-- SHE DID IT TO ME AGAIN--

--TELEPATHICALLY CONFUSED ME SO AH'D TACKLE AN ILLUSION!

NO MATTER, **ROGUE**.

I'LL SOON HAVE MY HANDS--

--ON THE REAL THING--

???

YOU THINK SO, **COLOSSUS**?

I THINK **NOT**!

NOW TO-- **OH!!?**

HE GRABBED ME!

WHO'D HAVE SUSPECTED... SO MUCH BULK...

...COULD MOVE SO FAST...

...WITH SUCH AGILITY?!

INSTINCTIVE REACTION, TOO--

--THERE WASN'T THE SLIGHTEST THOUGHT--

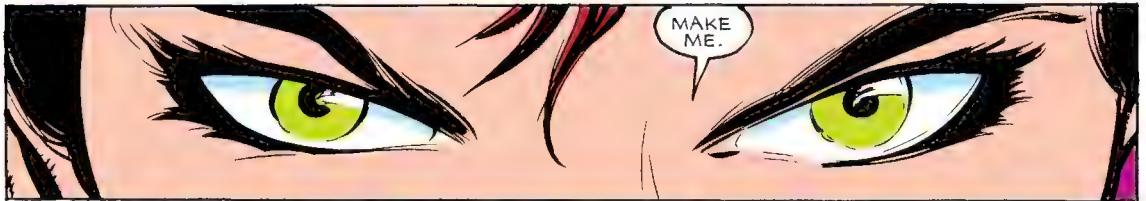
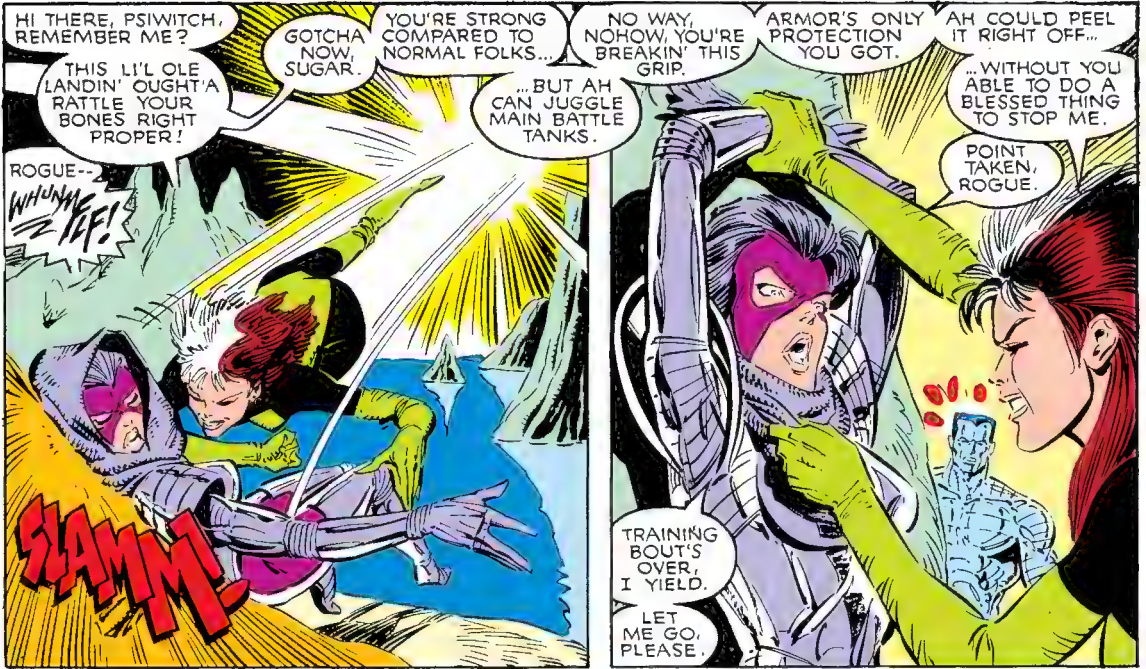
--TO WARN ME OF HIS INTENTIONS.

GOING LIKE A SHOT--

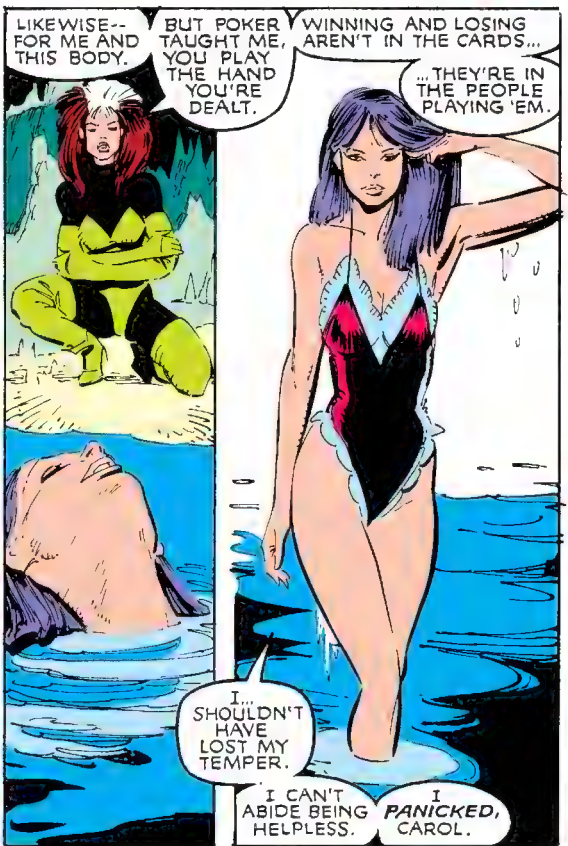
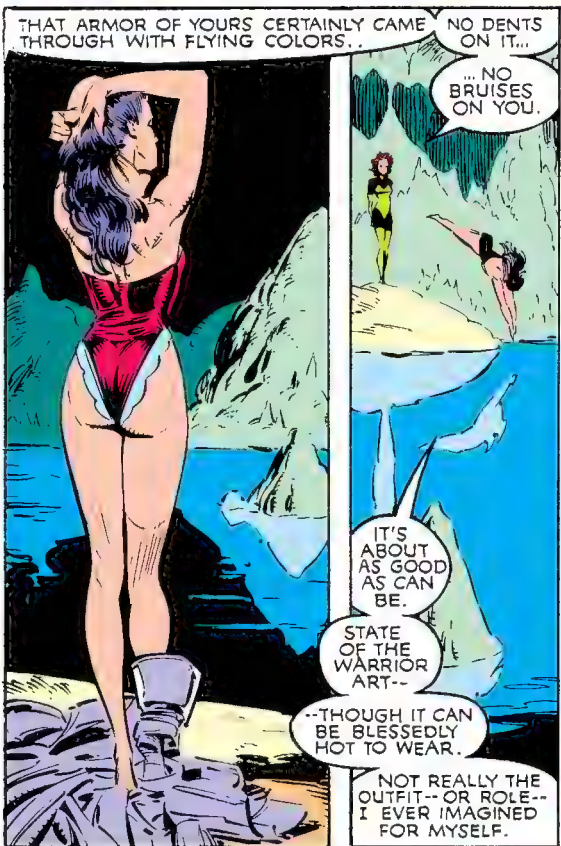
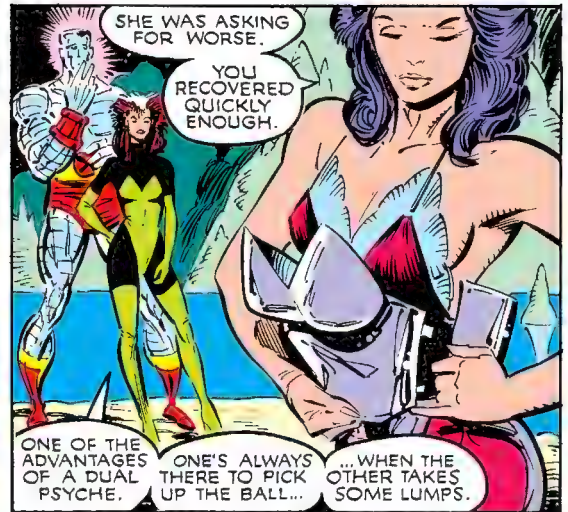
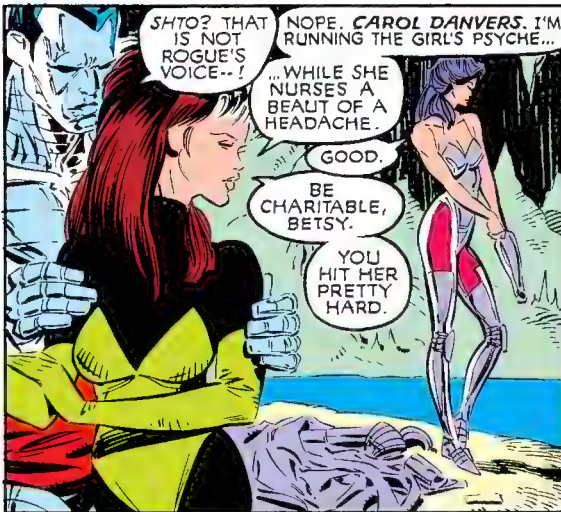
--RELAX, DON'T TENSE UP, STAY LOOSE, STAY LIMBER--

--LET THE ARMOR TAKE THE IMPACT!

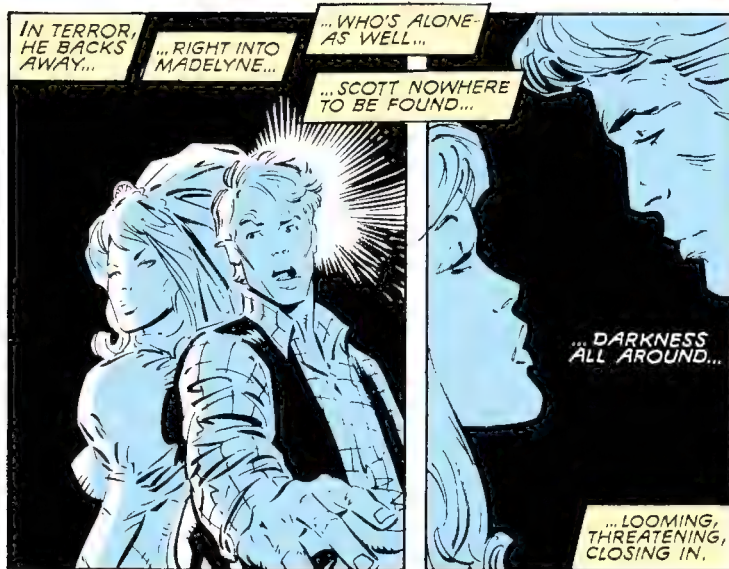
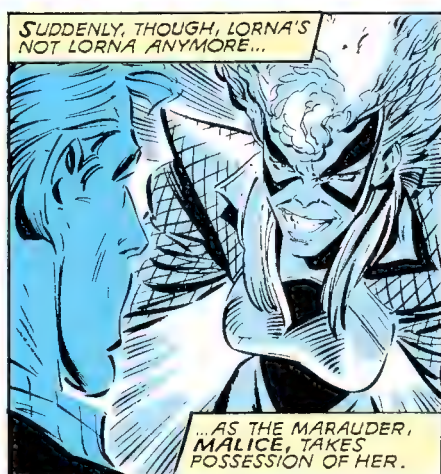
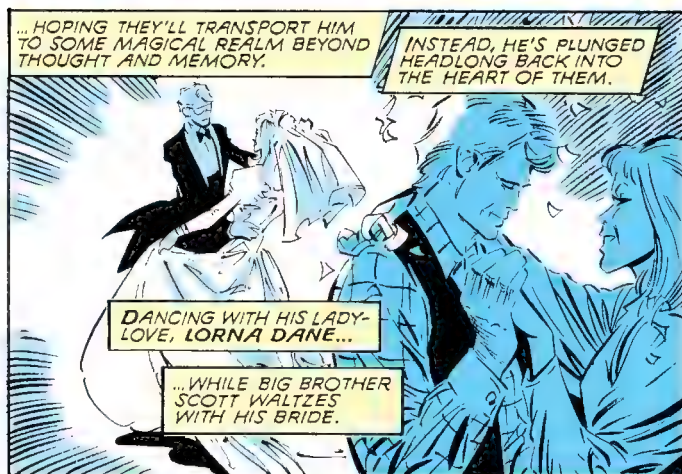
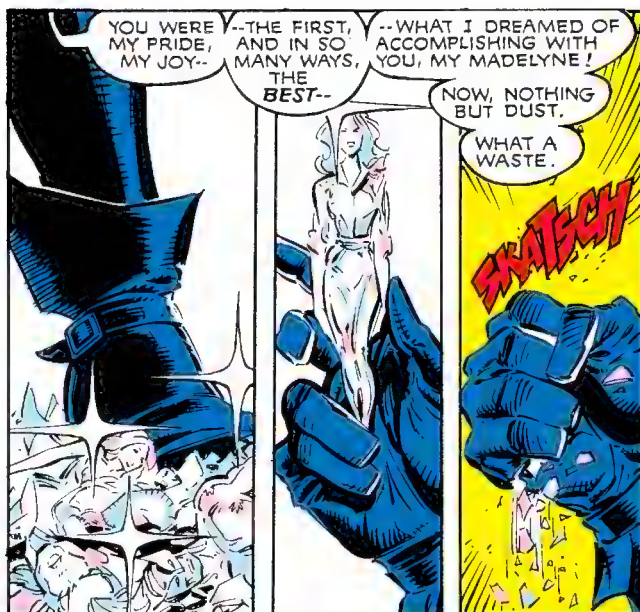




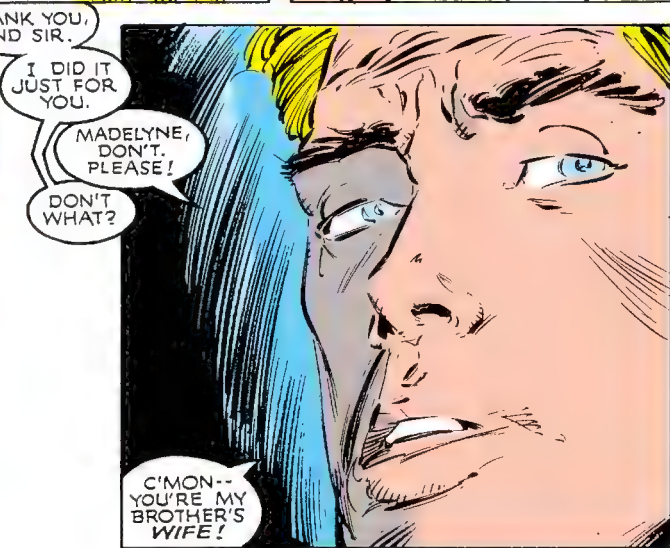
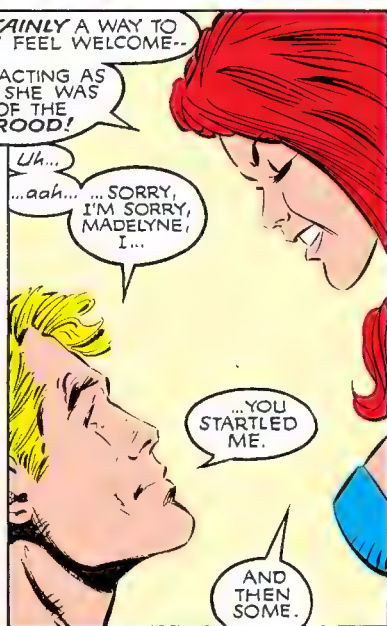
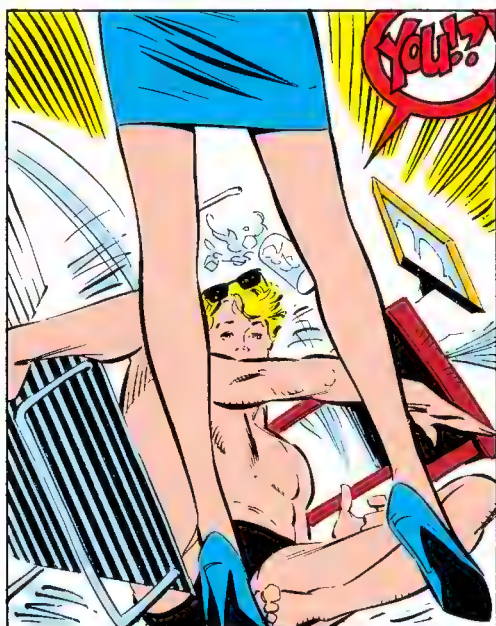
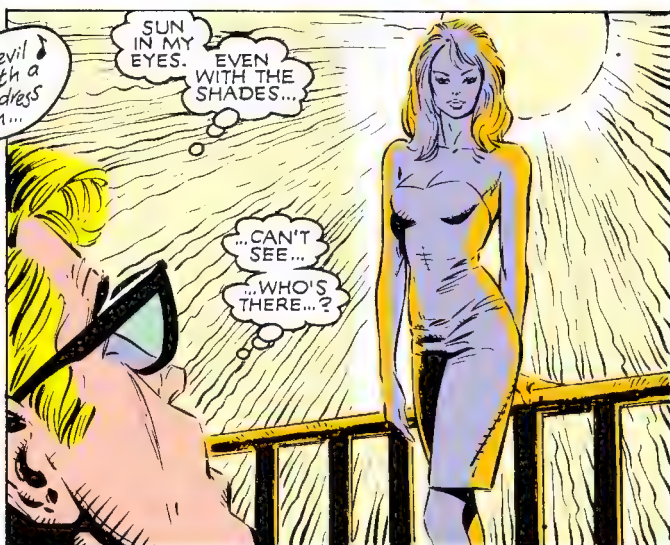
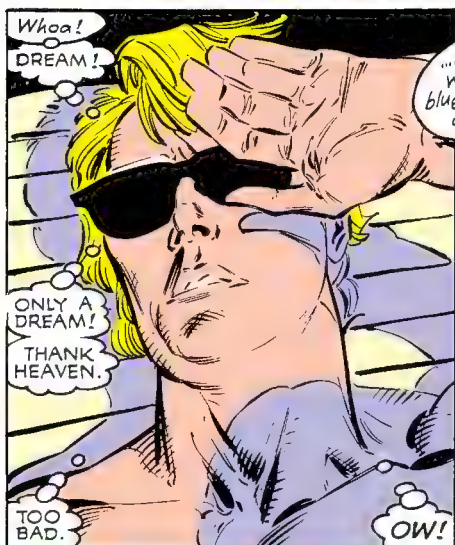




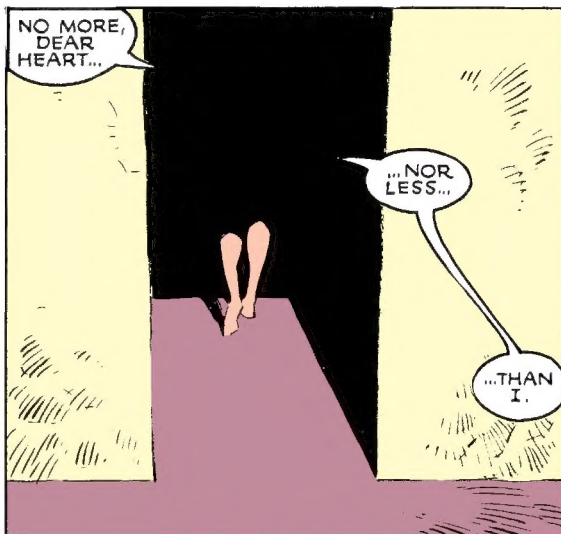
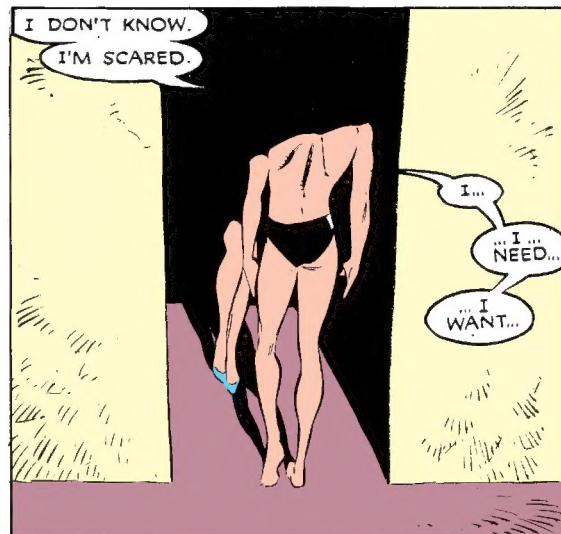
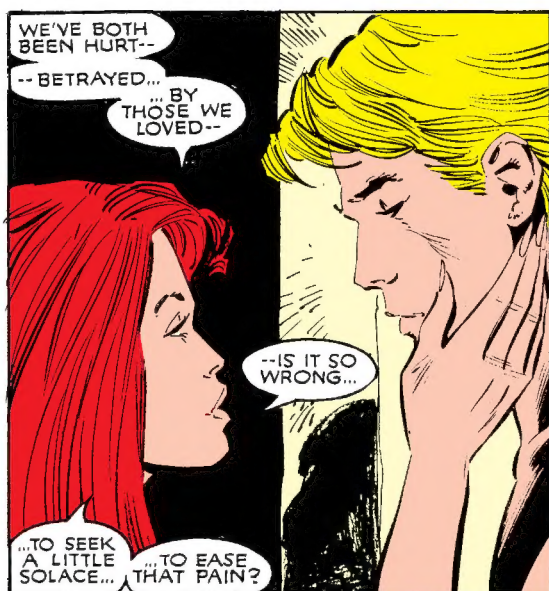
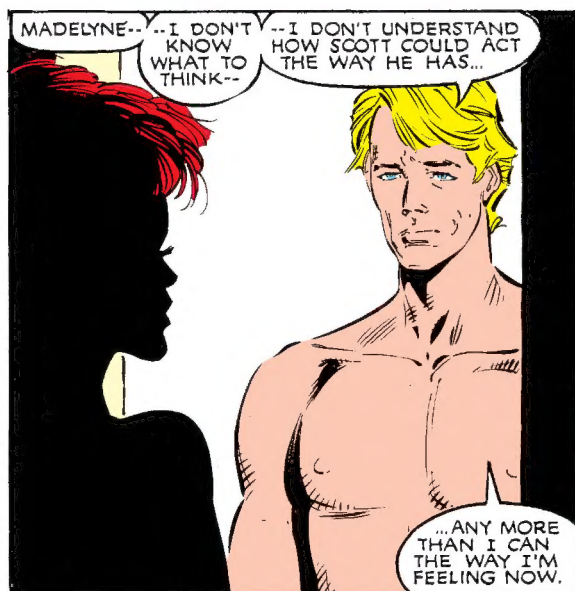
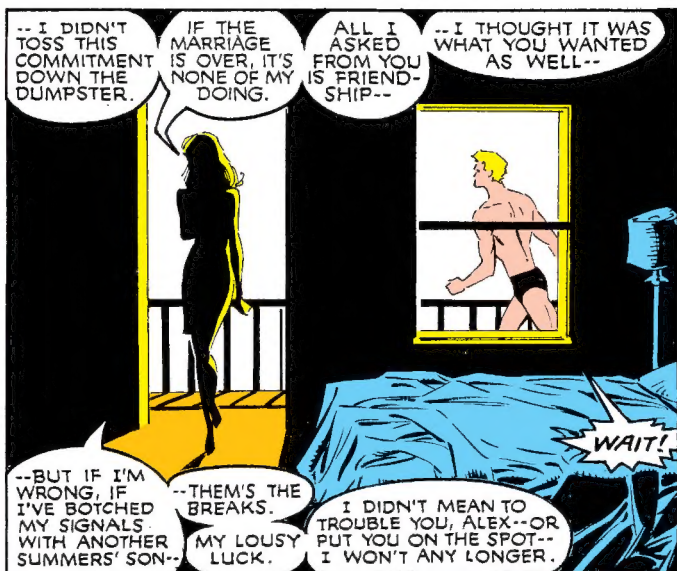




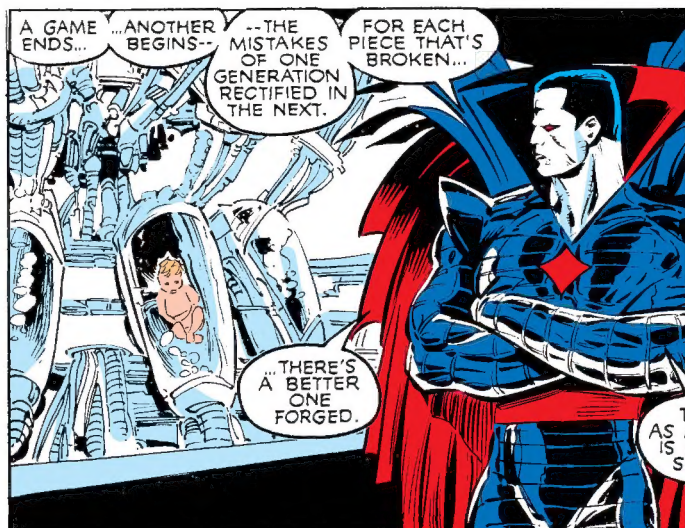












A GAME ENDS...

...ANOTHER BEGINS--

--THE MISTAKES OF ONE GENERATION RECTIFIED IN THE NEXT.

FOR EACH PIECE THAT'S BROKEN...

...THERE'S A BETTER ONE FORGED.

TIME, AS ALWAYS, IS ON MY SIDE--

-- I WONDER, IS THIS SUPREME SELF-CONFIDENCE...



...MY FATAL VANITY?

TIME WILL TELL.

SHORT-TERM SETBACKS DON'T MATTER A WHIT...

...BECAUSE, IN THE LONG RUN...

...MR. SINISTER WILL WIN.

AND YOU...

SUCH A TINY WORLD.

YET SO MANY...

...SEEM SO EAGER...

...TO CLAIM IT FOR THEIR OWN.



...NATHAN CHRISTOPHER CHARLES SUMMERS...

... WILL HELP ME DO IT!



NOT LEAST...

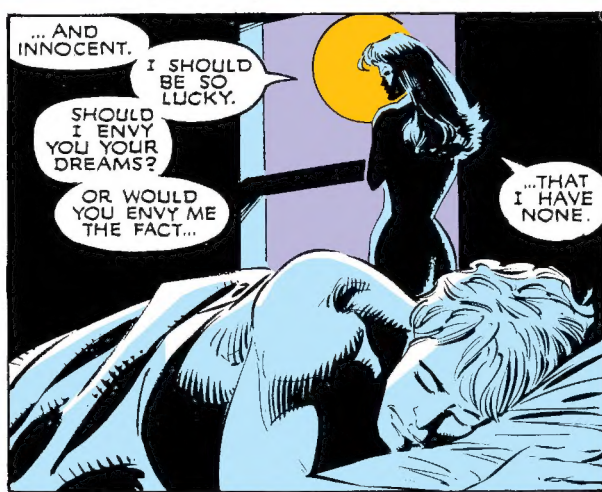
...MYSELF!



**AUSTRALIA.**

HOW EASILY AND NATURALLY, ALEX...

... YOU SLEEP THE SLEEP OF THE JUST...



... AND INNOCENT.

I SHOULD BE SO LUCKY.

SHOULD I ENVY YOU YOUR DREAMS?

OR WOULD YOU ENVY ME THE FACT...

...THAT I HAVE NONE.





ANOTHER TIME,  
ANOTHER PLACE...

...WHO KNOWS  
WHAT MIGHT  
HAVE BEEN?



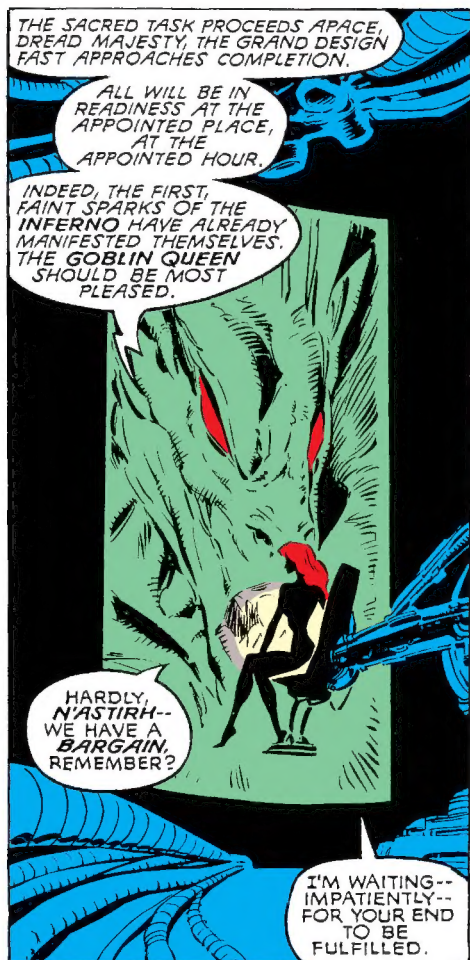
HERE  
AND NOW...

...WHO CAN SAY  
WHAT YET  
WILL BE?



I  
COULD  
SAVE  
YOU.

BUT IT'S  
BEST THAT  
I DON'T.



THE SACRED TASK PROCEEDS APACE,  
DREAD MAJESTY, THE GRAND DESIGN  
FAST APPROACHES COMPLETION.

ALL WILL BE IN  
READINESS AT THE  
APPOINTED PLACE,  
AT THE  
APPOINTED HOUR.

INDEED, THE FIRST,  
FAINT SPARKS OF THE  
INFERNO HAVE ALREADY  
MANIFESTED THEMSELVES.  
THE GOBLIN QUEEN  
SHOULD BE MOST  
PLEASED.

HARDLY,  
N'ASTIRH--  
WE HAVE A  
BARGAIN.  
REMEMBER?

I'M WAITING--  
IMPATIENTLY--  
FOR YOUR END  
TO BE  
FULFILLED.

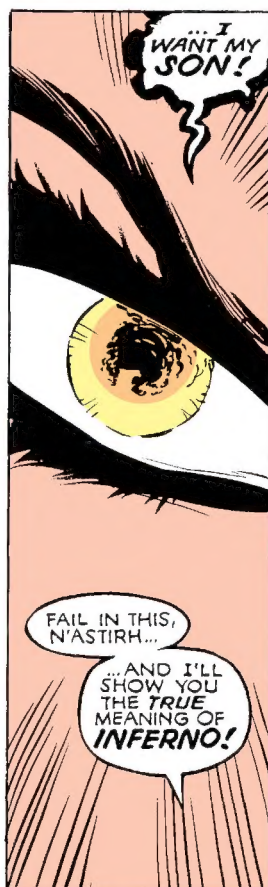


I WANT THE  
MARAUDERS  
FOUND--

-- SO THAT  
THE X-MEN  
CAN PAY  
THEM  
BACK...

...FOR THE  
MISERY  
THEY'VE  
CAUSED.

BUT MOST  
OF ALL,  
DEMON...



...I  
WANT MY  
SON!

FAIL IN THIS,  
N'ASTIRH...

...AND I'LL  
SHOW YOU  
THE TRUE  
MEANING OF  
INFERNO!

NEXT: IT BEGINS--  
**STRIKE THE MATCH!**





MINUTEMEN

Bluntman